



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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January 4, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
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From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SPONSOR LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE ENHANCED SERVICES TO
EMANCIPATED FOSTER YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 21
(ITEM NO. 4, AGENDA OF JANUARY 9, 2007)**

Item No. 4 on the January 9, 2007 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich directing the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Probation, and the Chief Administrative Office to work with members of the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation, the County Welfare Directors Association, and the California Youth Connection to sponsor legislation to provide enhanced services and financial supports to emancipated foster youth between 18 and 21 years of age.

Services for youth over 18 years of age are limited because Federal Title IV-E foster care funds are not available for post emancipation services. Similarly, although the County is operating under a Title IV-E waiver which provides greater flexibility to deliver child welfare services, the waiver caps funding and does not authorize services for emancipated foster youth.

Other programs such as those for Independent Living and Transitional Housing Placement provide some housing, education, transportation, employment training, counseling and life skills training to assist former foster youth between the ages 18 and 21 emancipate; however, these programs are not fully funded. As a result, former foster youth are more likely to experience poverty, low educational attainment, and unemployment than similar youth who were not in foster care.

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DCFS and the Probation Department recommend support for enhanced services to emancipated foster youth and further recommend that the County seek funding for this purpose. DCFS notes that providing enhanced services and financial support to former foster youth will complement the initiatives they are developing under the Title IV-E waiver to reduce placement, and increase permanency for children in foster care. The Probation Department supports this legislative proposal because it will provide youth emancipating from foster care with resources and tools to help them successfully live on their own, and we concur. Sponsoring legislation to enhance services for youth transitioning from foster care is consistent with existing Board policy to **support legislation and funding to facilitate successful emancipation, promote self-sufficiency and improve opportunities for youth aging out of foster care.**

DEJ:GK
MAL:VE:hg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services
Probation Department